GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1362
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
SURVEY CONDUCTED BY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEAN TECHNOLOGY .
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(A.) whether the National Institute of Ocean Technology recently conducted a survey and found that the large amount of plastic and other wastes found both onshore and offshore could deal administer deathblow to the marine wealth of the region and damage the coral reef in the Andaman and Nicobar Island;

(B.) if so, whether it has been proposed that government should take recourse to the international convention for prevention of pollution from ship;

(C.) if so, whether the Government have examined the suggestions; and

(D.) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINIS
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(A.) Yes, Sir. National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, did observe accumulation of plastic and other waste along the coast of Great Nicobar Island, in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, during a recent survey conducted in the coastal waters of the Islands

(B.) As per the MARPOL 73/78 Regulation (Annex V), disposal of any plastic garbage into the sea is prohibited which came into enforcement in 1/7/1992. All large ships (>400 tons) are required to have onboard a Garbage Management Plan, with required facilities to deal with garbage and maintain a Garbage Record Book. The Surveyors of Mercantile Marine Department of India are empowered to carry out inspection of ships at port call/offshore installations, and to investigate the compliance of the provision of the Regulation and prosecute the offenders.

(C.) The Government of India ratified the convention in June 2003, and the necessary steps have been initiated to comply with the requirements of the Convention.

(D.) Currently, adequate reception facilities are made available by the ports, which is a requirement under the Convention. Further, the Directorate General of Shipping would take measures through IMO to declare the coastal waters of Andaman & Nicobar Islands as "Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA)" under the IMO, after providing proper reception facilities at the ports. In September 2003 the Andaman Administration carried out cleaning operations along the coast with the help of Indian Navy and removed 400 nos of Plastic bottles